eral Licence (OGL) of items which are in short supply like edible oils and pulses are being permitted in order to augment the total availability of these items. Government has decided to import 1.5 million tonnes of wheat through State Trading Corporation to augment its availability. Some of the essential commodities like rice, wheat, sugar imported palmolein and kerosene are also being supplied through the Public Distribution System and Cooperative Stores at below market prices. Stringent actions are being taken against hoarders and black marketeers and others indulging in unfair trade practices under the Essential Commodities Act and Prevention of Black Marketing and Maintenance of Supplies of Essential Commodities Act etc. by the State/UT Governments.

Statement

Percentage variation in WPI of essential commodities as on 13.6.98 over different periods

Percentage variation (as on 13.6.98)

Commodity	Over 1 month 13.6.98/16.5.98	over 3 months 13.6.98/14.3.98
Pulses (Sub-group)	-3.6	-5.5
Gram	-8.8	-24.8
Arhar	-2.4	10.7
Moong	0.5	-1.6
Masur	-2.2	5.9
Urad	-1.0	2.4
Edible oils (Sub-group)	3.3	-6.1
Vanaspati	Steady	0.3
Groundnut oil	6.3	11.1
Mustard oil	6.7	18.0
Coconut oil	0.3	-7.3
Rice	1.4	2.9
Wheat	0.9	-3.1
Vegetables (Sub-group)	2.7	64.0
Potatoes	4.1	126.7
Onions	1.8	-14.4
Sugar	Steady	0.9
Salt	Steady	0.7
Tea	-5.9	-1.6

Impact of fall in Sugar Production

2011. SHRI RAJNATH SINGH SURYA: Will the Minister of FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that due to decrease in sugar production this year and also due to increase in per-capita allowance of sugar through PDS, pressure on sguar sellers has increased;

(b) if so, the reasons therefor;

(c) whether Government have prepared a plan of action to make up this shortage; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF FOOD AND CONSUMER AFFAIRS (SHRI SATYA PAL SINGH YADAV): (a) to (d) The production of sugar during the current sugar season 1997-98 is marginally less as compared to the last sugar season. There has been no change in per capita allocation of sugar under Public Distribution System. The releases of free sale sugar in the open market have been higher during the current season in comparision to the last season 1996-97. With the Carry over stocks of the last season and the estimated production of sugar during the current sugar season 1997-98, the Central Government would be able to meet the domestic consumption requirement of sugar in the country.

उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम में संशोधन

2812. श्री राम गोपाल यादव: क्या खाद्य और उपभोक्ता मामले मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि:

(क) क्या सरकार मौजूदा उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम में संशोधन करने का विचार कर रही है अथवा विचार करेगी,

(ख) यदि हां, तो उसका ब्यौरा क्या है, और

(ग) यदि नहीं, तो उसके क्या कारण हैं और उपभोक्ताओं को न्याय दिलाने के लिए उपभोक्ता मंचों को सरकार किस तरह प्रभावकारी बनाएगी?

रसायन और उर्वरक मंत्री तथा खाद्य मंत्री (सरदार सुरजीत सिंह बरनाला): (क) से (ग) केन्द्रीय सरकार ने उपभोक्ता संरक्षण अधिनियम, 1986 को और अधिक